



San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC) Dinner Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025

Location: Southwestern Yacht Club (SWYC)

1. Call to Order and Opening Protocols

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at Southwestern Yacht Club. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Staff Commodore Bill Edwards, followed by a toast by Senior SDAYC Staff Commodore Bill Sedgwick. SWYC Commodore Mark Pearcy was recognized and welcomed attendees. Staff Commodores present included Bill Sedgwick (2018) and Bill Edwards (2022).

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved.

3. SDAYC Board Introductions

Rear Commodore Sandra Sherman, Director Jenee Gillam-Ray with Alex, Senior Director Bob Howdyshell with Frances, and Vice Commodore Brian Fitzges were introduced.

4. Vice Commodore's Message

Vice Commodore Brian Fitzges welcomed attendees and commended the strong future leadership within SDAYC, noting the importance of collaboration and continued engagement among member clubs. He emphasized the value of the recent series of seminars and discussions that foster constructive communication and shared learning across the yacht clubs. Fitzges encouraged members to propose topics or ideas for future meetings as SDAYC plans its 2026 programs, underscoring the association's goal of creating open, productive dialogue among club leaders. He concluded by introducing the evening's panel on communication strategies and confirming that dinner would precede the panel discussion.

5. Evening Program – Communications Panel

Rear Commodore Rorie Ring introduced the evening program titled "Communication Strategies and Historical Documentation in Yacht Clubs." Panelists included representatives from Southwestern YC, Mission Bay YC, and San Diego YC, among others. The discussion



explored methods and challenges in effective club communication, highlighting the following key points:

- Clubs rely heavily on email newsletters as the most effective and consistent communication channel.
- Social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) are valuable complements but should respect member privacy and focus on public events.
- Printed newsletters, like SWYC's Mooring Line and SDYC's Mainsheet, serve as important historical records.
- Word-of-mouth and in-person conversations remain vital for member engagement.
- Clubs are experimenting with apps, push notifications, and QR codes for quick engagement.
- Town hall meetings and direct member feedback sessions build transparency and community trust.
- Emergencies are handled through structured systems such as SWYC's 'Signal Flare' email alerts.
- Challenges discussed included misinformation, inconsistent member awareness, and balancing modern tools with tradition.
- The session concluded with strong appreciation for proactive communication and storytelling across clubs.

6. Roll Call of Member, Associate, and Affiliate Clubs

Each attending club provided updates on recent events and club news:

- Coronado Yacht Club: Reported successful Sharp Hospice Regatta and women's sailing initiatives.
- Coronado Cays Yacht Club: Wrapping up summer races and preparing for Commodore's Ball.
- Mission Bay Yacht Club: Working on lease extensions and celebrating junior sailing achievements.
- Navy Yacht Club San Diego: Announced the upcoming Parade of Boats on October 19.
- Oceanside Yacht Club: Reported success in youth sailing and charitable regattas, including over \$11,000 raised for hospice.
- San Diego Yacht Club: Highlighted junior sailing victories and ongoing race programs.
- Silver Gate Yacht Club: Hosting the October 16 SDAYC meeting.
- Southwestern Yacht Club: Upcoming Little Ensenada Race, Casino Night fundraiser, and Lava Cap Winery dinner.
- Associate and Affiliate clubs (Cortez Racing Association, Point Loma YC, Challenged Sailors Association, IOBG, and NOSA) also shared updates and event announcements.



7. New Business

Rear Commodore Sandra Sherman reminded clubs that SDAYC award nominations are due by October 1, 2025. While nominations remain due by that date, awards will now be presented in January 2026 to align with the change of bridge and to reduce December scheduling conflicts. Members were encouraged to review the SDAYC website for award categories and criteria.

Mark Pearcy provided updates on the 2026 Racing Calendar, requesting each club submit their schedules promptly to ensure coordination and publication.

8. Next Meeting

The next SDAYC meeting will be hosted by Silver Gate Yacht Club on October 16, 2025. Attire for that meeting will be Greys.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting concluded at approximately 9:00 PM.